

very, very personal such as your religious feelings.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2431, FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-534) on the resolution (H.Res. 430), providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER DENNIS FINCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were on the floor, as it is National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Week, and we were talking about law enforcement and a number of bills we were trying to put forth and pass in this Congress, as we normally do during National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Week.

As founder and cochair of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I spend a lot of time on law enforcement issues. In fact, tomorrow at 3:30 in the Longworth Building, the Law Enforcement Caucus will be meeting to talk about pending legislation we have on body armor and the educational school benefits for those dependents of law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty, the police officers' bill of rights, a number of other issues that the Members would like to bring up to discuss with the Law Enforcement Caucus.

Actually, yesterday as we were debating the Visclosky bill, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, H.R. 2829, which overwhelmingly passed this House; we talked a lot about what happens with police officers, and I mentioned a case which happened back in 1974 when I was a police officer.

Unfortunately, at that time, we did not know and the statistic was put forth that about every 2 days we lose a police officer. Up in my northern Michigan rural community, we lost a police officer in Traverse City yesterday. I regret to inform the Nation that Sergeant Dennis Finch of the Traverse City Police Department was murdered as he went to check on an individual at a residence in Traverse City. Sergeant Dennis Finch is survived by his wife Agnes and their two daughters, who are 30 and 23 years old.

It is a rather unusual report that we have been picking up in the news media about what happened to Sergeant Finch, but I think it certainly high-

lights what police officers go through day in and day out in their job. They never know the dangers they face.

The individual who murdered Sergeant Finch was well-known by police officers. They had a number of incidents with the individual, and he was described by neighbors as a disturbed man who believed the Mafia was after him. And in fact, yesterday, Tuesday, he was actually seen with a gun strapped to his hip, a pistol if you will, and it was described as a large handgun strapped in a holster; and he came up to people and he was talking to people about the Mafia and that the Mafia was giving him a hard time.

It made people nervous. And as often happens, they called police officers to investigate. And according to the newspaper articles, the assailant here was convinced that the Traverse City Police Department, that the cops are the Mafia, and as he told some people, "Don't make any mistake about that."

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Unfortunately, in our line of work, people unfortunately do die, and we should not make any mistake about that. I find it ironic that as we were debating those bills that try to help all police officers, we had one in our district, at least in northern Michigan, lose his life. That is a very rare thing that happens in northern Michigan. Seldom do we have that kind of violence, but it surrounds us at all times.

As we go through National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, I hope we will keep Sergeant Finch in mind in some of the legislation we work on for law enforcement officers. Those of us who are past law enforcement officers, we try to work with this Congress to bring some degree of kindness and humanity to a very difficult occupation.

On Friday, it is usually my role as chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus to join in on Police Memorial Day, which is always on May 15, and that will be this Friday. This Friday I had planned on actually being in Traverse City, part of my district. I will be leaving Thursday night and had planned on taking part in a ceremony they hold every year in Traverse City on May 15 for fallen law enforcement officers.

This year's ceremony, unfortunately, will have a much deeper meaning for those of us who represent Traverse City and who knew Sergeant Finch. I will be in my district in Traverse City Friday and, hopefully, will get a chance to express the outrage and regret that this Congress feels when any police officer has fallen in the line of duty.

Our sympathies and deepest regrets go to his wife and his daughters and the rest of his family, his friends and fellow officers. This thing ended, after Sergeant Finch was shot, probably some 8, 9 hours later in a standoff before the assailant was finally apprehended.

We just ask that the good Lord may give strength to the family and to our

communities in northern Michigan, and we may have peace returned to our northern Michigan communities as we have known before, and that the good Lord may take away our pain and bless this family that has suffered so much for this country and for Traverse City in northern Michigan communities.

DEMOCRATS DENY GRANTING OF IMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my remarks, I would like to thank the previous speaker, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) for his remarks as we look to celebrate Law Enforcement Officers Day. I extend my condolences and sympathies to the people in his district and particularly to the family of the slain officer.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was Winston Churchill who speculated that, every now and then, mankind trips over the truth; but inevitably, he speculated and observed, mankind picks itself up, dusts itself off, and keeps right on going.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, by action of the Democrats unanimously today in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, we were not even afforded the opportunity to trip over the truth. The Democrats have erected yet another stonewall designed to prevent us from getting at the truth.

I speak, Mr. Speaker, of the unanimous vote by the Democrats on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight to deny what would be an important tool and what always has been an important tool for either law enforcement or investigative work of the Congress to get at the truth; and that is the granting of immunity.

Granting of immunity is a mechanism of long-standing and important history in our country, both here in the Congress and its investigative work as well, as in the work of law enforcement in which I engaged as a United States attorney in the Northern District of Georgia.

Granting immunity to witnesses is frequently the only way that law enforcement has of uncovering evidence sufficient to successfully prosecute important cases or for the Congress to elicit important testimony and evidence from recalcitrant witnesses.

Normally, when the Department of Justice, as it did in the case of the four proposed witnesses today, tells the Congress it has no objection to the granting of immunity for the witnesses, it is a pro forma, routine vote by whatever committee of the Congress it is that is seeking to elicit the testimony from those immunized or to-be-immunized witnesses to seek a grant of immunity. This is provided for in the United States statute, Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 6005(b)(2).